

BEFORE THE
Federal Communications Commission
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In the Matter of)	
)	
Wireless Operations in the 3650-3700 MHz Band)	ET Docket No. 04-151
)	
Rules for Wireless Broadband Services in the 3650-3700 MHz Band)	WT Docket No. 05-96
)	
Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices Below 900 MHz and in the 3GHz Band)	ET Docket No. 02-380
)	
Amendment of the Commission's Rules With Regard To the 3650-3700 MHz Government Transfer Band)	ET Docket No. 98-237
)	

COMMENTS OF SPRINT CORPORATION

Sprint Corporation ("Sprint") hereby submits its comments in response to the petitions for reconsideration filed in the above-referenced proceeding of the Commission's *Report and Order* establishing licensed terrestrial operations in the 3650-3700 MHz band.¹ As a licensee for fixed satellite service ("FSS") earth stations in this band as well as a leading provider of broadband wireless data services, Sprint has an interest in this proceeding. Sprint generally supports the Commission's efforts to gain the maximum efficient use of spectrum through the introduction of new licensed services while preserving valuable existing uses through rules and procedures that will eliminate the potential for harmful interference. Sprint expresses no opinion in these comments on many of the important policy and technical issues raised in the petitions

¹ *Wireless Operations in the 3650-3700 Megahertz Band*, Report and Order, FCC 05-56 (rel. March 16, 2005) ("*Report and Order*"). See Public Notice, Report No. 2722 (rel. July 18, 2005), 70 Fed. Reg. 43429 (July 27, 2005).

for reconsideration , *e.g.*, the use of a “contention-based” protocol for non-exclusive licensing in the 3650-3700 MHz band and the appropriate limits on out-of-band emissions by multiple non-exclusive licensees operating in that band. While these are important issues that must be resolved for terrestrial operations in this band to become a successful reality with minimal threat to C-band satellite operations, Sprint limits its comments here to the procedures and power level limits for protection against harmful interference to “grandfathered” earth stations operating in the 3650-3700 MHz band.

Sprint’s C-band earth station operations form a critical element in the functioning of Sprint’s world-wide voice and data network. Although fiber-optic cable links have now reached many parts of the world, ubiquitous connectivity can only be ensured through unimpeded access to satellite communications. Communications on lower-volume or more remote routes can nonetheless involve transmissions with important security, media, business or technical content. For these reasons, earth station operators need certainty that standard non-interference criteria will be applied to prospective terrestrial licensees that will account for all licensed users in the band, and that the burden to ensure non-interference will be appropriately placed on such prospective licensees as secondary users.

Sprint thus supports the proposal of the Wireless Communications Association that the Commission should clarify that the existing Part 101 coordination rules should be applied to applicants for new terrestrial fixed stations with the 150-kilometer protection zone established for “grandfathered” earth stations that have been operating for several years in the 3650-3700 MHz band.² Specifically, the Commission should establish a rule mirroring the requirements of Section 101.21(f) requiring applicants to perform the computations needed to determine that the

² Comments of WCA at 22-23 (filed June 10, 2005).

expected level of interference from the new fixed station will not exceed the maximum permissible interference power level. As a practical matter, given an environment of potentially multiple new applicants, such a requirement will necessitate the use of an experienced and mutually agreed third-party coordinator. Existing earth station operators should not be placed in the position of taking account, on their own, of multiple new sources of potential interference.

While these procedures should adequately address the issue of protection against potential interference to FSS earth station operations from new terrestrial fixed stations, Sprint also has concerns about proposed changes to the Commission's rules which could result in the possibility of interference from mobile stations. Sprint supports the mobile power level limits established in the *Report and Order* of 1 watt maximum peak EIRP over 25 megahertz bandwidth.³ The Commission should not adopt proposals to increase this limit,⁴ as any increase would multiply the potential for harmful interference sourced from aggregated mobile devices operating within close proximity of an FSS earth station.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should revise its rules to ensure effective third-party coordination initiated by prospective licensees of terrestrial fixed stations in the 3650-3700 MHz band and should not revise its rules regarding the power level limits for terrestrial operations in that band.

³ Sprint also supports the power level limit for fixed stations of 25 watt/25 megahertz EIRP. *Report and Order* at ¶ 50.

⁴ See, e.g., Comments of WiMax Forum at 10-11 (filed June 10, 2005).

Respectfully submitted,

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